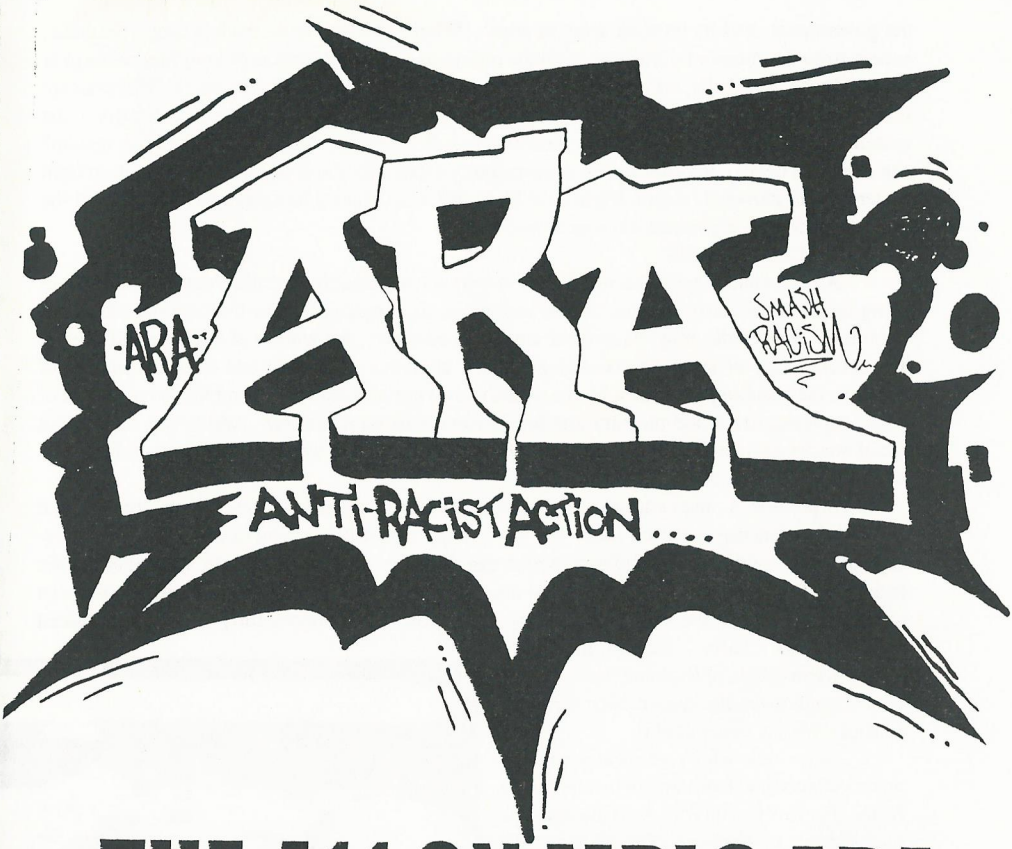


THE 411 ON MPLS ARA

We know this country is jacked. ARA believes that fighting racism means busting down the powers that create it, which are the same powers that fuck over women, gays, lesbians, transgender people and bisexuals. Racism still exists in every city, women are still often treated with no respect. Most people have to work long hours for shit pay. Cops harass youth and people of color on a daily basis, and gay bashing is always a threat to queer folx. The so called justice system is not helping these problems, in fact it is part of the problem. Anti-racist Action is for people who want to fight these forms of oppression. There are over thirty ARA's in cities throughout the U.S. and Canada, united by the Anti-Racist Action Network, which helps share information and coordinate actions across North America. ARA was originally founded a decade ago by anti-racist youth in Toronto and Minneapolis and is still majority youth today. We have no elected leaders, everyone has voice. We meet to decide on actions that have to do with problems in our communities. Our goal is to help build strong community ties, in order to get shit done.

RACISM IS EVERYWHERE... BUT WHAT IS IT?

After many years of discussion and study A.R.A. has agreed to a specific definition of racism, as it occurs in America. This being that Racism= Racial Prejudice + Power . This country was founded on the genocide of Native peoples and the enslavement of Africans. Racism has been entrenched in most areas of mainstream society and has been perpetrated by

the government and its internal army of cops . Where you live how much money you make, access to banks and our interactions with the police, as well most aspects of your life, are largely based on race. Basically, white people in this country are born with an advantage. This concept is often called white privilege. White people are given privileges in return for their loyalty to the system , i.e. divide and conquer. Because of this A.R.A. does not believe that "reverse racism" can exist. We believe it's everyone's responsibility especially those who benefit from it, to fight systemic and personal racism. Right now Mpls. ARA is splitting its energy between two of the most racist forces, organized nazis and the cops.

NO ROOM FOR NAZIS

A.R.A. challenges hardcore racists in two ways, through education/outreach as well as using on the street confrontation. We believe white supremacists can be both out-argued an out organized. Some folks may claim these are fringe elements, not worthy of our time and energy. The recent surge of arson attacks against Black churches (including one on the East side of St.Paul), the bombing of clinics, by the quickly growing christian right, and the involvement of white supremacists in the military and police force tells us otherwise. Add to this the violent racial attacks against Somalis by whites in Rochester, MN. and we don't have to look far to see what's up. Check it out!

Mpls.A.R.A. uses education to combat and debunk the myths, lies, and stereotypes that organized racists use to recruit with. We also put out a positive anti-racist and multiracial message of understanding and solidarity, which can relate to all people. We've held open public forums on the politics of Malcolm X and the Black Panthers, as well as discussing anti-fascist activities throughout the world. For many years A.R.A. has successfully held an anti-fascist march and rally commemorating Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass), a night which symbolizes the rise of Nazi terror in Europe. We say never again!

Any talk which advocates intolerance, violence and hate can not be allowed to fester. For this reason A.R.A. challenges the nazi's ability to organize. This happens in a few different ways.

First, we collect information on nazis both locally and regionally. Second, we challenge their attempts to recruit youths, whether at schools, malls, or concerts. We go where they go. Third, A.R.A. maintains a constant street presence especially declaring areas of public space "Nazi Free Zone". Lastly we'll always attempt to shut down any concerts, rallies, or events that are white supremacist in nature. Free speech does not exist when it infringes on another human's freedom due to their religion, color of their skin, sexuality, or gender. Women as well as men play a strong role in on the street confrontation within A.R.A. All we are saying...is shut'em down!

To this end the A.R.A. Network has begun a campaign to stop a neo-nazi record label/ magazine/ distribution service called Resistance Records which is based in Detroit. A.R.A.'s in Canada and the U.S. are working hard to expose and weaken Resistance through education and confrontation of music stores that sell this shit. We know we will win!

CRIMINALS IN BLUE WE SEE YOU

A.R.A. recognizes police as one of the most obvious, most brutal and oppressive groups of "organized racist" in existence. Most oppressed people in America, primarily people of color, but also youth, the poor and working class, women, and queers fear the police. Harassment and brutality are a constant threat. Police go virtually unchallenged, the official channels

set up to reprimand them are basically for show. Cops who repeatedly beat down, rape, and murder are given, at most, a slap on the wrist, but usually more like a pat on the back. Cuz see it's not a few bad ones stepping outside there bounds, they are all just doing there jobs correctly, keeping the people down and dividing. Their job is to make people live in fear. They are an occupying army terrorizing everyone who is a threat to this fucked up system.

Its up to people to stand up to cops cuz no one is gonna do it for us. To combat this A.R.A. has a program called Copwatch, where we go out every other weekend and watch the police. We talk to people, pass out flyers and question police procedure. When we see cops harassing, searching, or detaining, someone we step to them armed with a video camera and knowledge of the law. We make the cops deal with us. We hold the police accountable to people in the streets. Copwatch can't be everywhere all the time. We are trying to build up the already existing anti-cop culture. We need to stick up for folx, and standing up to police all the time. Although organized copwatches are relatively new, the idea behind them is widespread and common. When you see cops fucking with someone no matter what "crime" they committed it's a safe bet the cops are in the wrong. We need to have each others backs when the cops fuck with us. We need to take the power back! Until cops fear us this shit is gonna continue. So next time cops try to pull some shit in your presence let them know you are watching. Make them accountable to you and your community.

GIRLS KICK ASS! QUEERS FIGHT BACK!

Racism , sexism, and homophobia are all interconnected and therefore dependent on each other. White supremacy is based on oppression of all who aren't white, straight men. There is no real justice where any group of people are denied freedom.

Women and queers face a lot of shit from this society. Women earn less money than men for the same jobs, queers are attacked and beaten. The courts system is restricting queer rights to marriage and home owning, and continually denying justice to women in cases of rape, domestic abuse, and child custody.

Women grabbing power that is theirs is a threat to how this country works. In order to keep white power, and the christian right together, they need to keep those who run it, men, in important positions. Women being able run families without the help of men is a threat to patriarchy. When women take control of their own bodies, that's one less way of keeping them down. Legislation and laws should not dictate how women deal with their pregnancies. Rape is another tool to control women. Rape takes away the most personal knowledge of self. This crime is far too widespread and common to be written off as the problem of a few crazy men. Rape is oppression and needs to be fought with the same strength as all other forms.

Queers directly challenge the idea of the perfect family that white supremacy wants all people to fit. The legal fight against queer rights is setting up some fucked up laws. A judge should not be able to tell you who you can marry, whether or not you can have kids, or where you can live- this shit should make you mad cuz a judge shouldn't be able to tell that to anybody. Who a person decides to love shouldn't have anything to do with their human rights.

These problems are pretty much ignored by every culture in amerika. Sexism and homophobia are problems in every community. This is exactly what white supremacy wants to happen. It is a divide and conquer tactic to keep us fighting among ourselves instead of against

the common enemy.

There is something wrong with any system where basic rights are given to some and denied to others. This is where a community starts to split and in doing so becomes weaker. ARA believes in building unity between all oppressed people from block to block. This is the strength it's gonna take to crush white supremacy.

Since A.R.A.'s incarnation in the late 80's there has been work against oppression in the Twin Cities. Progress has been made, it is safe to say the Minneapolis youth scene is nazi free. A.R.A.'s work to confront sexism, racism, and homophobia has taken many forms.

WHAT WE'VE DONE AND WHAT WE'LL DO

• Mpls ARA women presented a "confronting sexism in the anti-racist scene" workshop at our annual network conference. It was a hard and emotional workshop for many of the participants, but has had a definite effect on people in our local.

•The creation of the A.R.A. Network, a North American anti-racist organization.

•A.R.A. in coalition with other local groups staged a kiss-in at the site of a recent queer bashing. It was in front of the perpetrators house. They were confronted and publicly humiliated.

•We discovered, through an internal police bulletin, that A:R.A.'s Copwatch was named in the top ten organizations hated by the Mpls pigs.

•A.R.A. organized to shut down a nazi show in St. Paul. First we shut down the nazi's meeting point, by having a baseball/picnic which was over a hundred strong. Then the concert, which featured Bound For Glory and other nazi bands from Europe was stopped before it had a chance to happen.

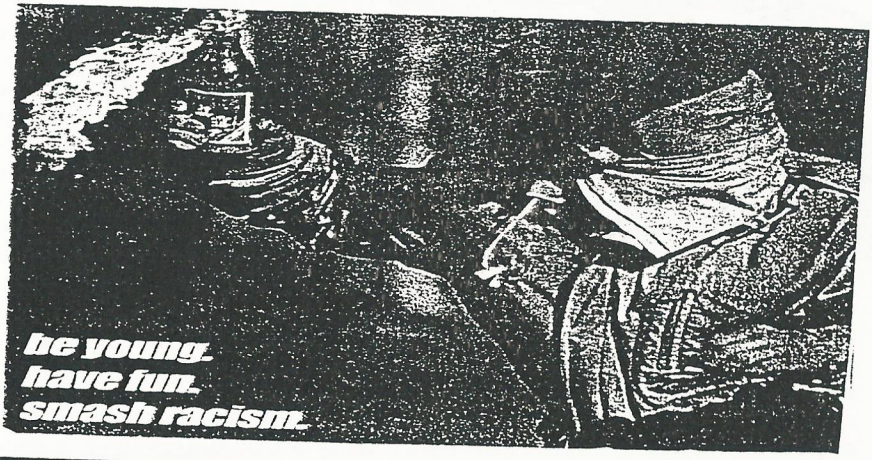
•A.R.A. has held annual Kristallnacht demonstration for the last five years, with the last two being free of the presence of nazi boneheads.

•A.R.A has participated in pro-choice coalitions organizing to take on the christians rights anti-choice and homophobic agenda.

•A.R.A. mobilizes to challenge klan gatherings throughout the midwest.

•We organize to support anti-racists who defend themselves against Nazis.

•We are currently involved in making ties with anti-racist youth in Rochester, MN in light of the recent attacks on the Somali comunity by the racist "All American Boys."



Get involved, contact us at:
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Hotline: 612-649-4586